

Dick, Penelope Wilson

History of Shiloh United Methodist Church

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HISTORY
of
Shiloh United Methodist Church

LOUISBURG CHARGE

Franklin County, North Carolina

1870 - 1970



SHILOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1970

"There I will meet with thee and will commune with thee from above."
(Ex. 25:22a)

Rayford Etherton
Pastor

William R. Cannon
Bishop
North Carolina Conference

Leon Russel
Superintendent
Raleigh District



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P R E F A C E

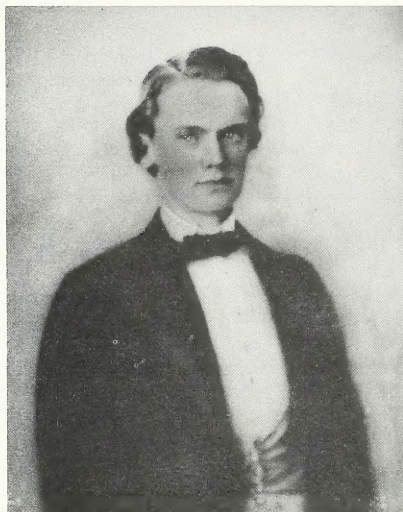
For several years in the Methodist Episcopal Church there was friction between the North and South over the slavery question. In 1844 the South formed its own Conference and named it "The Methodist Episcopal Church South."

In November 1939 at the General Conference, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united. It was then known as the Methodist Church.

At the General Conference in Dallas, Texas, April 21 to May 4, 1968, the proposed union of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethern Church was accepted and the two denominations are now one. The church became the United Methodist Church.

The first annual Methodist Conference in North Carolina was held at the Green Hill House, in Franklin County near Louisburg, North Carolina, on April 20, 1785.

FOUNDERS OF SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH



Mr. Thomas Whitmel Davis



Mrs. Thomas Whitmel Davis



ORIGINAL SHILOH CHURCH (1939)

HISTORY OF SHILOH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"I Have a Goodly Heritage." Ps.16:6

BEGINNING: On December 23, 1863, Thomas Whitmel Davis married Penelope C. Jones of "Crabtree," Raleigh, North Carolina, and took his bride to his home "Cypress Hall" and plantation on Cypress Creek in Franklin County (the present J. O. Wilson home and farm).

Both were devoted Methodists and realized the need of a church in that section. It was through their prayers and efforts that Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church South was started. A one-room church was built on the Davis Plantation at a site known today as "The Rocks," it is thought, in 1870.

It is believed the church was placed on the Youngsville Circuit December 6, 1874 with Pastor M. J. Hunt, Presiding Elder J. P. Moore, and Bishop E. M. Marvin in charge. Shiloh was transferred to the Bunn Circuit in 1919, and has been on the Louisburg Charge since 1925.

Shiloh was the childhood church of the ten Davis children, for it was there they were taken as soon as they were old enough to go to church. Some of the children, when grown, taught Sunday School for several years. The Davis family loved this church and

were regular in attendance. Since they were a large family, they greatly added to the congregation with others in the community who desired to attend.

We have only hearsay and the Davis family history for the beginning of Shiloh Church. Prior to 1915 Circuit churches lost their identity in the Charge, or Circuit, and no individual records were kept of them in the Conference Journals.

RELOCATION: In 1890 or 1891 the location of Shiloh Church was changed and a new one-room church building was built at the present location, seven miles southeast of Louisburg, North Carolina, on Franklin County Rural Road #1001.

LAND: On July 16, 1892, 5/8 of an acre of land was donated and deeded to Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church South, subject to the General and Annual Conferences, by Thomas W. Davis and wife, P. C. (Penelope C.) Davis. The trustees who accepted and signed the deed were D. E. Best, T. W. Davis, John R. Ross, J. E. Matthews, J. O. B. Alford, M. E. Joyner and C. C. Harris. (Franklin County Court House).

To straighten the line and give the church greatly needed space, on May 23, 1952, John F. Harris and wife, Frances, donated and deeded to Shiloh Church 2/10 of an acre of land on the south. On the same day, W. P. Murray and wife, Hattie, donated and deeded to Shiloh Church 16/100 of an acre on the north. (Franklin

County Court House).

BUILDING: The new one-room frame building, the outside planks painted white, with a wooden shingle roof, was 40 feet 6 inches long by 26 feet 6 inches wide. On the north and south were three windows, each 6 feet by 4 feet with six large panes of glass 15 inches by 12 inches in each sash. On the west behind the pulpit were two smaller windows 5 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, with six panes of glass 6 inches by 8 inches in each sash. The windows were changed from clear glass to cathedral glass in 1960.

On the east, beginning at the corner of the roof, going from the south to the north, and reaching a point in the center was a 10-inch facade, painted white. It is there today.

The front of the church faced the east and had one opening and a door painted mahogany. In 1960 the one door was changed to double doors and double screen doors were added.

Just above the door was a large 2-foot 6-inch Star made by Mr. Pat Knowland, which was painted a soft yellow on a blue background within a circle. Perhaps the Star was to set this building apart as the church of Jesus Christ, the Bright and Morning Star, Son of the Eternal God. Whatever the builders had in mind, this Star, now painted white, has been and is today a great inspiration to all who see it, especially to the



members of this church.

ROOF: In 1912 the church roof began to leak and upon investigation it was learned the church was slowly "coming apart at the seams," dividing through the center. The stewards at that time were D. E. Best, J. O. Wilson, and Arthur Spivey. These men, with the help of the members, especially Thad Hayes, put metal rods through the building from the north to the south and fastened them on the outside with large bolts. These rods held the building together. At the same time a new wooden shingle roof was put on and a brick chimney added. In 1944 the church needed a new roof again. At that time the church was covered with a composition roof by the Southall Roofing Company, Raleigh, North Carolina. Twenty-six years have come and gone and "it's that time again." The church needs a new roof.

Shiloh has always been a rural church and its members good, substantial, law-abiding men and women who loved the Lord and their church. These early church people were hard-working, laboring hours before sun-up until long after dark as they depended upon the soil for their livelihood. Life was not easy for the husband, the wife or the children for there were no conveniences. Water was drawn from a well or brought from a spring, ice was a luxury, and food was cooked on a wood stove in a hot kitchen. Today very

few people anywhere are without electricity, washing machines, televisions and electric stoves. In those days every man grew the food for the family, raised hogs and chickens for meat, and had at least one cow to supply milk and butter. If the crops, cotton and tobacco, were good he had money for clothing and for some of the essentials of life that we take for granted. Electricity and modern machinery have made farming easier today.

When the first World War began in 1914, the young men in this community were taken from the farms. Money began to get "tighter," labor was short, tobacco was cheap and cotton cheaper. The boll weevil devoured the cotton and blue mold struck the tobacco.

In 1929 the stock market crashed, banks failed and men were out of work. Some families lost their farms and the economy of the nation was at its lowest ebb. People deserted the farms and fled elsewhere to make a living.

The church suffered greatly. The membership dwindled as the older generation passed on and the next generation was not able to support the church in a proper manner. The youth was gone and there was no leadership.

During the depression years (1929-1939) only a few gathered together for worship services, the Sunday School ceased, and the building began to deteriorate. (See picture of the church, 1939.) It

seemed that the beloved little church would have to close its doors for good.

However, there were those in this church who believed Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." There was prevailing prayer without ceasing for Shiloh Church during those difficult years. God is faithful. He honors prayer and is always on time--not too soon, not too late.

In February 1940 Herman Nicholson, a young consecrated Duke student, a man from the farm who understood the problems of a farming community came to complete the year. In June Mr. Nicholson was assigned to this Charge by the Conference. During the time he was here, Mr. Nicholson with Stewards Arthur Spivey, John H. Best, J. O. Wilson, Jr., Graham Hayes, and the church members working together repaired the front sill, underpinned the building, and painted the church outside. The small membership took on new life.

PORCH: Until 1960 the church was entered by three wooden plank steps 6 inches wide. In 1960, with Pastor H. K. Jeanneret, Stewards B. S. Alford, J. O. Wilson, Jr., Graham Hayes, Cecil Hayes, Atlas Tant, Ferrell Burnette, and the members added a porch 8 feet by 12 feet, with a concrete floor and two 18-inch wide concrete steps. The small one-foot Star in the porch

gable was added at the same time.

INTERIOR: There was and is today one center aisle leading to the altar and pulpit. On each side of the aisle are ten benches and two benches in the "Amen Corner," on the south to the left of the pulpit. These benches in the church today, of solid pine, 10½ feet long with seats 17 inches wide and 36 inches from the floor, were made in 1892 by James O. B. Alford, father of B. Smith Alford and grandfather of Frances Alford, Church Treasurer.

In earlier years the women and children sat on the right, while the men and older boys sat on the left. If a child misbehaved, he or she was taken behind the church. That experience was never repeated by the same child twice.

When the boys and girls were old enough to sit in church without the supervision of their mothers, the girls were permitted to sit together on the front bench, and the boys moved over to the front bench on the men's side. Those little girls in their "Sunday hats and dresses," and those little barefoot boys swinging their bare legs must have been heartwarming and inspiring to many preachers in this pulpit. The men, women and families did not begin to sit together any place in the church until 1930.

The older men sat in the "Amen Corner." When they agreed with the minister they let it be known by a

loud "Amen." The more Amens the preacher got, the better preacher he was, or so it was thought. The two benches are still in the "Amen Corner" but they are seldom used and the Amens heard so frequently in earlier years are rarely heard anymore. This is just one example of how the worship service has changed through the years.

Three-foot solid pine wainscoting was and is today around the four sides of the building. The walls to the ceiling were white plaster. The solid pine ceiling, 1 foot 6 inches above the windows on the north and south, extends 2 feet, then makes a complete arch to the roof from one side to the other. The benches, wainscoting, and frame around the windows, were painted mahogany and the walls and ceiling were painted a pastel green in 1960.

The interior continued to take on a new look. In 1961 a hardwood floor was laid and the Woman's Society of Christian Service had a lovely green-on-gold carpet laid in the aisle and across the front.

COMMUNION RAIL: The original Communion Rail of solid pine, was 10 feet long and 2 feet 2 inches high. It was slightly curved in the center with a round knob 5 inches in diameter and 8 inches high on each end. The Communion Rail and the knobs at each end were changed in 1960 by Mr. B. S. Alford.

PULPIT STAND: The present pulpit stand of solid pine, enhanced by wood carving on the front and two sides was made by Mr. Pat Knowland in 1893.

LIGHTING: Eight kerosene oil lamps, each set in a bracket fastened to a window frame, gave out the feeble light in the church when there was the need, until 1921 when a Rayo lamp, also a kerosene oil burner but giving more light, was added for the benefit of the organist.

When rural electricity became available in 1941, the church was wired for electric lights. The fixtures here today are those formerly used in the L. E. Scoggin Drug Company in Louisburg, North Carolina. Mr. Scoggin was installing indirect lighting, so he gave these fixtures to Shiloh Church.

HEATING: In "the good old days," the church was heated by one large cast iron wood-burning stove 3 feet long and $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. The stove was placed in a box of sand for fire prevention, as the door for the wood was on the front and fire could easily fall on the floor when it was opened for more wood.

Sometimes in the fall some member would haul, by wagon and mule, a load of wood to the church, but often wood was put in the back of the buggy and taken to the church on Sunday morning by those who went to "preaching." The first person to arrive at the church made the fire.

The flue had an elbow and at first ran out the top of the second window on the south. When the chimney was built on the roof in 1912, the flue went through the ceiling and the sand box changed to a sheet of tin. In 1940 the wood stove was replaced by a coal burning heater. The old stove did its best but gave way to progress in 1956 when Butane Gas burners were installed.

MUSIC: When the church first started at this location, there was no choir, no organ and no piano. The singing was led by anyone who could give the key or pitch and it frequently fell to the preacher's lot. The first hymnals were red clothbacked, 4 inches by 5 inches without notes. Those were replaced in 1915 by paperback hymnals with notes. That same year an organ was purchased. The very neat organ case was solid oak, 65 inches high, 44 inches long, and 23 inches wide. It had 8 stops, 5 octaves, 2 knee swells, and 3 sets of reeds. It was pumped by placing the feet on two pedals each 5 inches wide and 8 inches long. It was like walking through ploughed ground and took strength, energy, skill, and ability to play. Miss Mary Best was the only person who could skillfully play the organ but was weak on strength. Many others had the energy, would pull out all the stops and try, but the result was only a joyful noise.

In 1935, with H. E. Lance as pastor, the organ failed completely and the members decided to get a piano. A salesman from Durham brought a piano to the church, his wife to play, and he sang a solo to let us know what a bargain we were getting for \$100.00. The congregation offered him \$50.00, and he accepted but wasn't too happy about it. At the same time red Cokesbury hymnals were purchased. Hymnals and pianos wear out. Today the church needs both.

WEDDING: The first member of Shiloh Church to be united in Holy Wedlock was Miss Eva May Spivey to Mr. Edward Smith on December 21, 1939. Rev. M. H. Bloodworth officiated.

FUNERAL: The first funeral service was conducted by Rev. J. A. Wagnon in Shiloh Church for Walter Wester in 1953.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: The first Vacation Bible School was conducted in 1937 with M. W. Warren as pastor. M. H. Bloodworth, a Duke student, was assisted by Miss Eva May Spivey, Miss Mary Best, and Miss Lucy Wilson. Vacation Bible Schools have been conducted each summer, each better than the last. This year the teachers were Mrs. Annie Burnette, Mrs. Nonie Jefferys, Mrs. Graham Hayes, Miss Lucy Wilson, and Mrs. Val Tant.

MEMORIALS: The following were given as
memorials and honorariums to loved ones:

To the right, as one enters, Window #1 is
in memory of Lawrence S. Alford, Susan A.
Alford, Mary and Minnie Alford, by the
Lawrence Alford Family.

Window #2, in honor of Joseph C. Murray, by
the Wiley Murray Family.

Window #3, in memory of Mary Perry Wilson by
the J. O. Wilson Family.

Window #4 (back of pulpit), in memory of Mary
Wilson Berryhill by William Carey Berryhill.

Window #5, (back of pulpit), in memory of
Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Stallings, by the M. H.
Stallings Family.

Window #6, in memory of John Owen Wilson by
the J. O. Wilson Family.

Window #7, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. C.
Stallings, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Alford, by
Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Alford.

Window #8, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. B. S.
Alford by the B. S. Alford Family.

2 Offering Plates, in memory of Mary Wilson
Berryhill by Friends.

Pulpit Light, in memory of Mrs. J. O. Wilson
by Friends.

The Bible on pulpit stand, in memory of
Bettie Brodie Webb, by her sons, R. T. Webb
and S. T. Webb.

The rebuilt Communion Rail, in memory of
Mrs. Nannie G. Alford and son, Junie Alford,
Katie B. Alford, Mary D. Alford, by Mr. and
Mrs. B. S. Alford.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE: In 1937 the W. S. C. S. was organized with Mrs. Annie Burnette, President. The women worked together and their first project was to make a red velvet kneeling cushion for the altar, and a red velvet scarf for the pulpit stand and table. They kept the church clean and put flowers in the church for services.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS: The known superintendents of the Church School have been Robert Bunn, Mrs. J. O. Wilson, Russell Harris, George Stokes, Daniel Wester, Miss Mary Best, Graham Hayes, Joseph Burnette, Roy Boyd, Kearney Hayes, and today Mrs. Annie Burnette. There is Church School every Sunday and worship service three times each month by the pastor.

STEWARDS: The known stewards and trustees have been D. E. Best, T. W. Davis, John R. Ross, J. E. Matthews, J. O. B. Alford, M. E. Joyner, C. C. Harris, John Henry Best, Arthur Spivey, J. O. Wilson, B. S. Alford, and today they are J. O. Wilson, Jr., Graham Hayes, Cecil Hayes, Atlas Tant, and Ferrell Burnette.

PARSONAGE: All pastors lived in the five-room parsonage at Youngsville, N. C. until 1945. At that time the parsonage was sold and the money for it divided among the churches that helped to build it. Shiloh applied its part to a new six-room parsonage built at Bunn, N. C. for the Louisburg Charge. The Jobe Overton family was the first to occupy the new parsonage.

PASTORS: In the early days, as well as today, a preacher on a circuit had several churches, which meant he preached at a different church every Sunday. The third Sunday in the month he preached at Shiloh. The only mode of transportation was by horse and buggy, so every Saturday the minister would hitch "Old Dobbin" to the buggy and jog along to the community where he was to preach the next day. There he would spend the night with one of his parishioners. No one knew when the preacher was coming, consequently all the church members had to be prepared for him, and sometimes his family. With the automobile and good roads the custom of spending the night before services on Sunday gradually ceased. Mr. Clegg, 1919, was the first pastor with a car, a Model T Ford.

These men were truly saints--they never complained and seldom asked for money though they were poorly paid. They always read the Bible and had all the family kneel in prayer when visiting in a home.

Every year the preacher was "pounded" when the church members brought food for him and his family. He always returned home with a buggy filled with good food, butter, eggs, honey, sugar, meal, ham, chicken, vegetables, and not to forget "Old Dobbin" some hay and corn.

Some of the pastors who served Shiloh in the past are:

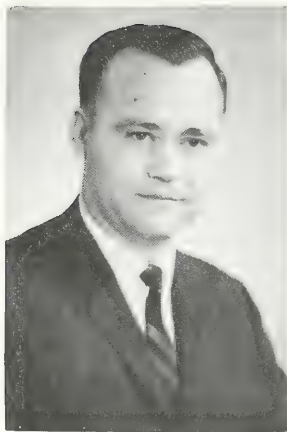
Mr. M. J. Hunt	1874
Mr. C. O. Durant	1888-89
Mr. R. H. Whitaker	1890-91
Mr. W. B. Moore	1892-93
Mr. J. T. Draper	1894-95
Mr. Albert S. Barnes	1896
Mr. R. H. Whitaker	1897-1900
Mr. G. R. Rood	1901-02
Mr. G. T. Simmons	1903-04
Mr. D. B. Parker	1905-08
Mr. F. B. Noblett	1909
Mr. J. W. Martin	1910-12
Mr. B. C. Allred	1913-16
Mr. J. A. Dee	1917
Mr. H. M. Jackson	1918
Mr. E. R. Clegg	1919-20
Mr. T. S. Coble	1921-22
Mr. W. B. Humble	1923-24
Mr. E. C. Crawford	1925-27
Mr. A. L. Thompson	1928-31
Mr. A. J. Parker	1932
Mr. C. E. Vale	1933
Mr. A. M. Williams	1934
Mr. H. E. Lance	1935
Mr. M. W. Warren	1936-37
Mr. L. W. Hewett	1938
Mr. N. H. Bloodworth	1939
Mr. R. H. Nicholson	1940
Mr. R. A. Cook	1941
Mr. J. C. Chaffin	1942-43
Mr. C. H. Lewis	1944
Mr. Jobe Overton	1945-51
Mr. J. A. Wagnon	1952-54
Mr. J. E. Wood	1955
Mr. Earl S. Tyson	1956-57
Mr. Merrill Perkins	1958-59
Mr. H. K. Jeanneret	1960
Mr. E. C. Ruffin	1961
Mr. Harold Hicks	1962-63
Mr. Rudolph Benesh	1964
Mr. John Bryant	1965
Mr. Robert Dunn	1966-67
Mr. Rayford Etherton	1968-70

CHURCH OFFICERS 1970

Pastor	Mr. Rayford Etherton
Stewards	Mr. J. O. Wilson Mr. Cecil Hayes Mr. Atlas Tant Mr. Graham Hayes Mr. Ferrell Burnette Mrs. Nonie Jefferys Mrs. Annie Burnette Mrs. Graham Hayes Miss Lucy Wilson Miss Frances Alford Mrs. Val Tant

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 1970

Mrs. B. S. Alford Frances Alford Mrs. Lizzie S. Bartholomew Wilton L. Bartholomew Daphynne S. Braswell Mrs. Hollie Lee Braswell Philip Braswell Mrs. Ray Braswell A. L. Bunn G. F. Burnette Mrs. G. F. Burnette Mrs. Eugene Champion Mrs. Fannie Driver Odell S. Driver Mrs. Christine Fuller Cecil Hayes Foster Hayes G. K. Hayes Mrs. G. K. Hayes Kearney Hayes Margie Hayes	Mrs. R. L. Hayes Mrs. Annie L. Hunt R. Calvin Hunt Fred Jefferys Mrs. Nonie Jefferys Mrs. Herman Murray Mrs. Jewel Murray Shearion Mrs. Lizzie Pearce Mrs. Helen A. Shackleford A. D. Smith Atlas Tant Mrs. Atlas Tant Joe Tant John Tant Thomas Tant D. L. Wester Mrs. Myrtle Wester J. O. Wilson Lucy Wilson Mrs. Mary T. Wilson Robert Wood
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RAYFORD ETHERTON, Pastor



OFFICERS 1970

Front Row, Left to Right

Atlas Tant, Ferrell Burnette

Second Row

Cecil Hayes, Graham Hayes, Fanny Hayes, Lucy Wilson

Third Row

Nonie Jeffreys, Annie Burnette

Fourth Row

Rev. Rayford Etherton, John Owen Wilson



Congregation, Sunday, April 26, 1970

REVIVAL: Realizing the importance of spiritual life and the need for growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, Shiloh, even in the dark years, has had a revival each year. In the early days the revival lasted a week, with services in the afternoons and evenings, and dinner on the grounds the Sunday it closed.

The third week in September has been designated for the revival here each year, ending on the fourth Sunday in September, celebrating Home Coming with dinner on the grounds.

As far as we can ascertain, we come today, September 27, 1970, not only to celebrate Home Coming but also our One Hundredth Anniversary.

Perhaps many of you here have never been a member of this church but your ancestors were and they helped to keep the Light of Jesus Christ shining. This church is your heritage. Your ancestors were depending on you to carry on, if not in Shiloh Church, wherever God has called you to serve.

GRATITUDE: We give thanks to God for His goodness in building the Church of the Living Christ here. We give thanks for the leaders and the followers who united under the banner of Christ and gave of their time, talent, and money to build a church house. We

give thanks for those who have labored on the building and for those who furnished the material.

We give thanks for the ministers whose services and sacrifices have guided the people to a deeper and fuller spiritual life.

We thank God for every Word that proclaimed His Holy Name, for every prayer breathed, and every tear shed in this sacred place.

Without ceasing we express our gratitude for every person who stood at this altar and accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Redeemer.

We give thanks for those loyal soldiers of the Cross today, who by the Grace of God are carrying the torch handed to them by their forefathers.

Though this church has never produced a minister of the gospel nor sent out a missionary
ONLY ETERNITY WILL REVEAL THE WORTH OF WHAT HAS BEEN
DONE HERE and by the Grace of God continues to be done.

We look back with love and affection to the sacred experiences, yet we look forward to the future, a tomorrow for the Church. There is work

for every member--"Go ye into all the world and
preach the gospel to every creature," (Mark 16:15)
and fulfill the great commission to the Church.

Submitted by,

Penelope Wilson Dick

Penelope (Neppie) Wilson Dick
Historian

Approved:

Rayford Etherton

Rayford Etherton, Pastor

THANKS: With sincere thanks to

Mr. Rayford Etherton, Pastor, Louisburg, N. C.
Mr. Alex Wood, Louisburg, N. C.
Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Wilson, Louisburg, N. C.
Miss Lucy Wilson, Louisburg, N. C.
Mrs. Al Langley, Louisburg, N. C.
Mrs. Arch Wilson, Louisburg, N. C.
Mr. Sam Wilson, Fayetteville, N. C.
Mrs. Elizabeth Jones Allen, Sanford, N. C.
Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson Wilson, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Mr. Archie Davis, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Mr. W. C. Wilson, Methodist Building, Raleigh, N. C.
Rev. W. K. Quick, Historical Society, Durham, N. C.
Rev. Herman Nicholson, Charlotte, N. C.
Bishop Paul M. Merrick, Richmond, Va.
Mr. Daniel Wester, Franklinton, N. C.
Mr. W. K. Van Vynckt, Charlotte, N. C.
Mrs. Thomas Neely, Charlotte, N. C.
Mrs. Jamie O. Barnes, Charlotte, N. C.
Mrs. A. E. Deaton, Hickory, N. C.
Mrs. James Boyd, Charlotte, N. C.
Mrs. C. D. Barfield, Charlotte, N. C.
Crayton Printing Company, Charlotte, N. C.

and to all who have contributed in any way to make
this history of Shiloh Church possible, and last but
not least, my husband, James Dick.

Penelope Wilson Dick, Historian



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